MARVEL

LIMITED SERIES

9 OF 9

HEINBERG • CHEUNG • MORALES • PONSOR

AVENGERS

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

AVENGERS

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

United by friendship and bravery, Wiccan, Hawkeye, Hulkling, Patriot, Speed, Stature, Iron Lad and the Vision are the Young Avengers, following in the footsteps of Earth's Mightiest Heroes!

When Wiccan loses control of his magic powers, the Avengers fear he has the potential to become another Scarlet Witch: the missing former Avenger who killed three of her teammates and committed what some consider a mutant genocide.

Believing the Scarlet Witch to be the key to Wiccan's future and his freedom, the Young Avengers make an uneasy alliance with her father, the mutant terrorist Magneto, and her brother, Quicksilver, to find and rehabilitate her.

The Avengers pursue the dysfunctional team to Latveria, where Wiccan – acting on his own – discovers that Wanda Maximoff, the former Scarlet Witch, has no powers, no memory of her past, and is about to marry the Latverian dictator, Doctor Doom.

Doom captures Wiccan, igniting an all-out war with the Avengers, the Young Avengers, Quicksilver, and Magneto.

The Young Avengers and Wanda escape and take refuge in the Timestream, where they revisit Wanda's past and, in doing so, manage to revive the Scarlet Witch's memory and her reality-altering powers.

Horrified by the sins of her past, the Scarlet Witch vows to reverse the spell she cast that resulted in M-Day, the depowering of all but a few hundred mutants. She begins by restoring the seismic energy powers of Rictor from X-Factor and is about to cast a spell on the entire mutant population when Patriot intervenes, allowing Doctor Doom to usurp and claim the Scarlet Witch's reality-altering power as his own.

In the climactic battle between an all-powerful Doom and the combined forces of the Avengers, the X-Men, X-Factor, and the Young Avengers, a giant-sized Stature bravely attacks Doctor Doom, saving the day, but sacrificing her life in the process.

ALLAN HEINBERG — WRITER

JIM CHEUNG — PENCILER

MARK MORALES WITH CHEUNG — INKERS

JUSTIN PONSOR — COLORIST

VC'S CORY PETIT — LETTERS

LAUREN SANKOVITCH — ASSOCIATE EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT — EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO — EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA — CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY — PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE — EXEC. PRODUCER

JIM CHEUNG & JUSTIN PONSOR COVER ART

AVENGERS: THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE No. 9, May 2012. Published Monthly by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020.

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

$3.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market; Canadian Agreement #40668537. **Printed in the USA.** ALAN FINE, EVP - Office of the President, Marvel Worldwide, Inc. and EVP & CMO Marvel Characters B.V.; DAN BUCKLEY, Publisher & President - Print, Animation & Digital Divisions; JOE QUESADA, Chief Creative Officer; TOM BREVOORT, SVP of Publishing; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Operations & Procurement, Publishing; RUWAN JAYATILLEKE, SVP & Associate Publisher, Publishing; C.B. CEBULSKI, SVP of Creator & Content Development; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; MICHAEL PASCIULLO, SVP of Brand Planning & Communications; JIM O'KEEFE, VP of Operations & Logistics; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; SUSAN CRESPI, Editorial Operations Manager; ALEX MORALES, Publishing Operations Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact John Dokes, SVP of Integrated Sales & Marketing, at jdokes@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158. **Manufactured between 02/10/2012 and 02/21/2012 by QUAD/GRAPHICS JONESBORO, JONESBORO, AR, USA.**

To find MARVEL COMICS at a local comic and hobby shop, go to www.comicshoplocator.com or call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

WHEN DOOM ATTACKED YOU...

...CASSIE THOUGHT HE'D **KILLED** YOU.

SHE...

SHE BEAT THE HELL OUT OF HIM.

SHE SAVED US.

SHE SAVED **ALL** OF US.

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE **ME**...

...NOT **HER**.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO **SAVE** HER.

WE CAN TAKE HER INTO THE **TIMESTREAM** RIGHT NOW--YOU AND I--AND FIND A DOCTOR IN THE FUTURE WHO CAN HELP HER.

WHAT--?

BUT WE HAVE TO GO **NOW**. THE LONGER WE WAIT--

IRON LAD...

...I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO, BUT--

I CAN SAVE HER, CAPTAIN. I CAN BRING HER BACK. YOU JUST HAVE TO **TRUST** ME.

MR. LANG, I KNOW HOW PAINFUL THIS MUST BE FOR YOU, BUT IF YOU LET ME TAKE HER, I PROMISE I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO--

YOU WILL DO **NOTHING.**

CASSIE IS GONE, IRON LAD. YOU MUST LEAVE HER IN PEACE...

...WITH HER FATHER.

YOU MEAN, I SHOULD LEAVE HER WITH **YOU.**

YOU ARE NOTHING!

NATHANIEL--

NOTHING BUT A MACHINE.

A MACHINE WITH MY BRAIN PATTERNS.

CALM YOURSELF, NATE.

IF CASSIE HAD ANY LOVE FOR YOU, VISION, IT WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE A CARBON COPY OF ME.

YOUR BEHAVIOR AT THIS MOMENT DISPROVES THAT THEORY.

YOU WOULDN'T EVEN EXIST IF I HADN'T PROGRAMMED YOU-- IF I HADN'T BUILT YOU--

I KNOW THAT.

THEN KNOW THIS...

...I CAN TAKE YOU APART JUST AS EASILY.

YOU KILLED HIM.

YOU KILLED THE VISION.

YOU CAN'T KILL SOMETHING THAT WAS NEVER ALIVE TO BEGIN WITH.

NATHANIEL, FIX HIM.

RIGHT NOW.

YOU FIX HIM IF YOU WANT.

I'M LEAVING.

AND I'M TAKING CASSIE WITH ME.

NO, SON. YOU'RE NOT.

I AM TRYING TO SAVE HER LIFE.

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO KILLED HER.

THE WAY YOU WENT AFTER THE SCARLET WITCH...

...THE WAY YOU WENT AFTER WICCAN...

NATHANIEL, YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.

WHY ARE YOU DEFENDING THEM, BILLY?

THEY'RE **TERRIFIED** OF YOU. AND WHAT YOU CAN **DO.**

AND IF YOU THINK THEY'RE GOING TO LET YOU AND THE YOUNG AVENGERS EVEN **EXIST** AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DELUDING YOURSELF.

OUR ONLY HOPE FOR ANY KIND OF FUTURE IS IN THE **TIMESTREAM.**

WE CAN FIND CASSIE IN THE **PAST** AND MAKE SURE THIS NEVER HAPPENS TO HER.

NATHANIEL, DON'T YOU SEE?

THIS IS THE MOMENT.

IF YOU RUN AWAY TO THE PAST AND START CHANGING THE FUTURE...

...THIS IS THE MOMENT YOU BECOME ***KANG THE CONQUEROR.***

YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME, BILLY.

I'M GOING TO BE **BETTER** THAN KANG THE CONQUEROR.

MUCH BETTER.

YOU'LL SEE.

SHOULD WE GO AFTER HIM?
CAN WE GO AFTER HIM?
IT ISN'T HIM YOU WANT...
...IT'S ME.
AND ME.
AND ME.
I'M AS MUCH TO BLAME AS WANDA IS.
I AM, TOO.
TOMMY--
WE'RE ALL AS MUCH TO BLAME AS WANDA IS.
WHICH IS TO SAY, NOT AT ALL.
DOOM IS TO BLAME FOR ALL OF THIS... M-DAY...CASSIE'S DEATH...
HE SAID SO HIMSELF. YOU ALL HEARD HIS CONFESSION.
A MAN IN LOVE'LL SAY ANYTHING.
THAT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE LOVE TO ME.
CYCLOPS...?

EVEN IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT DOOM WAS TELLING THE *TRUTH*...

...AND THE SCARLET WITCH *WAS* POSSESSED BY A FORCE SHE COULDN'T CONTROL...

...IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT SHE DESTROYED LIVES.

AND FOR THAT THERE IS NO PUNISHMENT SEVERE ENOUGH.

BUT THE CHILDREN WERE RIGHT...

...THERE IS NO *JUSTICE* TO BE HAD.

EVEN HER DEATH WOULD ACCOMPLISH NOTHING.

BETTER SHE SHOULD SPEND WHAT'S LEFT OF HER LIFE TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT SHE'S DONE, KNOWING IT WILL *NEVER* BE ENOUGH.

KNOWING SHE WILL *NEVER* BE FORGIVEN.

KNOWING I WILL END HER LIFE *MYSELF* WHEN IT HAPPENS AGAIN.

BECAUSE IT *WILL* HAPPEN AGAIN.

HE'LL COME AROUND.

THEY *ALL* WILL.

ROGUE!

SEE YA.

YOU KNOW YOU HAVE A HOME WITH US HERE.

NO, CAP. NOT AFTER WHAT I'VE DONE.

WANDA... "ONCE AN AVENGER, ***ALWAYS*** AN AVENGER."

I THINK WE BOTH KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.

DON'T KID YOURSELF.

THE MINUTE THE AVENGERS FIND THEMSELVES IN A MAGIC WAR AGAINST ***DORMAMMU*** OR ***MEPHISTO***, YOU'LL BE BACK ON THE TEAM.

HELL, THEY'LL PROBABLY PUT YOU IN CHARGE.

I'LL BE TOO BUSY, JAMIE...

...DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP THE PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES I DESTROYED.

YOU'D BETTER...

...OR SCOTT SUMMERS WON'T BE THE ONLY MUTANT WHO COMES GUNNING FOR YOU.

WANDA...

SIMON...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

I'VE NO IDEA.

MY ENTIRE ADULT LIFE, I'VE ONLY EVER BEEN AN *AVENGER.*

YOU'RE BETTER OFF *WITHOUT* THEM, BELIEVE ME.

THE AVENGERS USED TO BE A *FAMILY.* NOW IT'S AN *ARMY.* AND ONE YOU DON'T WANT ANY PART OF.

WANDA...

I'LL LEAVE YOU TO *YOUR* FAMILY FOR NOW...

"...BUT KNOW I'M HERE FOR YOU NO MATTER WHAT."

COME, MY DEAR, YOU NEED REST.

WANDA'S COMING WITH *ME,* FATHER.

I THOUGHT PERHAPS WE MIGHT ALL GO SOMEWHERE *TOGETHER.*

EUROPE? THE SOUTH OF FRANCE?

YOU WANT TO GO ON *HOLIDAY?*

THANK YOU BOTH, BUT I NEED A LIFE OF MY *OWN* BEFORE I CAN TAKE A HOLIDAY FROM IT.

I'VE ONLY EVER BEEN PIETRO'S *TWIN...*

...MAGNETO'S *DAUGHTER...*

...THE VISION'S *WIFE.*

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR *MYSELF...*

"...AND BE THERE FOR MY CHILDREN."

"SO, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?"

"WE REPAIR *THE VISION.*"

"HOW?"

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HOW?" WE'VE GOT TIMED BACKUPS OF HIS HARD DRIVE.

YEAH, BUT HIS ***BODY*** WAS 30TH CENTURY TECH. THERE'S NO WAY TO REPLACE IT.

SO, WE'LL ASK TONY STARK TO BUILD US A ***NEW*** VISION--WITH THE OLD VISION'S MEMORIES.

THE ***YOUNG***, OLD VISION. ***OUR*** OLD VISION.

I DON'T THINK TONY STARK'S GONNA BE IN THE MOOD TO DO US ANY FAVORS FOR A WHILE.

SO, WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING AMAZING TO MAKE THE AVENGERS ***FORGIVE*** US, AND ***THEN*** WE CAN BRING THE VISION BACK TO LIFE.

EVEN IF WE COULD...

...I DON'T KNOW IF WE ***SHOULD.***

WHAT?

KATE--

THINK ABOUT IT.

ALL HIS HARD DRIVE BACKUPS ARE FROM ***BEFORE.***

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE ONLY TO TELL HIM THAT CASSIE'S ***DEAD?***

THAT WOULD JUST BE... CRUEL.

AND I CAN'T HELP HOPING...MAYBE HE AND CASSIE ARE TOGETHER RIGHT NOW...

...WHEREVER THEY ARE...

...AND THEY DESERVE TO REST IN PEACE.

SO, THEY'RE BOTH JUST... *GONE?*

AND WE JUST...

WE'RE JUST GONNA GO ON *WITHOUT* THEM?

NO.

I'M NOT, ANYWAY.

ELI--

WHAT!?

A *MILLION* MUTANTS WOULD HAVE GOTTEN THEIR POWERS BACK IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME.

THAT'S NOT TRUE. DOOM WAS NEVER GONNA LET WANDA RE-POWER THE MUTANTS.

ELI, YOU MADE A MISTAKE. EVERYBODY MAKES MISTAKES.

I'VE MADE TOO MANY.

AND I'M SEVENTEEN. I'M ONLY GONNA MAKE *MORE.*

BUT I SWEAR TO GOD, I WILL NEVER ALLOW MY MISTAKES TO HURT ANYONE ELSE. EVER AGAIN.

SO, I'M THROUGH BEING PATRIOT...

...AND TOMORROW, I'M MOVING TO SCOTTSDALE TO LIVE WITH MY MOM.

THAT'S A MISTAKE.

HE'S MADE UP HIS MIND, YOU GUYS.

AND YOU'RE JUST GONNA LET HIM GO?

WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?

MY BEST FRIEND *DIED*...

...THE VISION *DIED*...

...IRON LAD *MURDERED* HIM...

...ON A MISSION I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE *LEADING*.

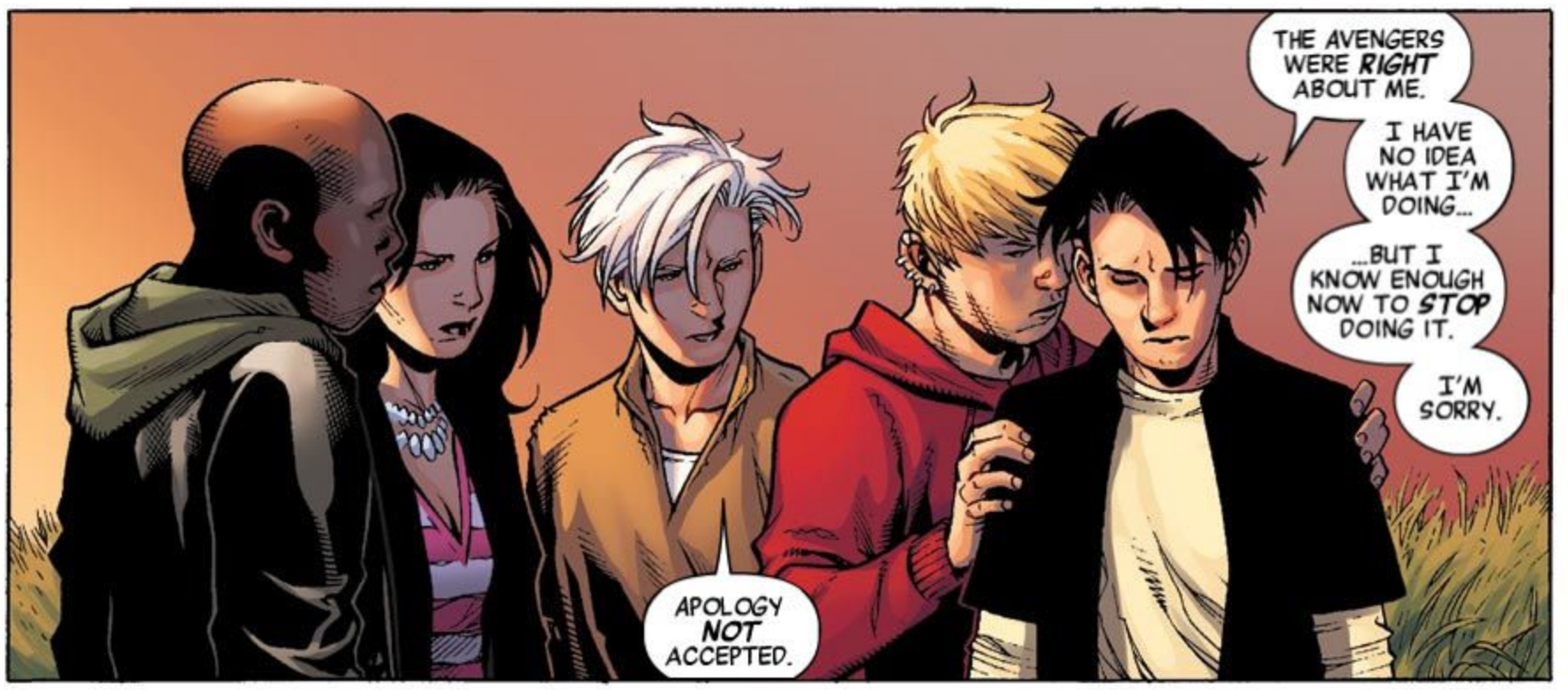
I'M NOT LIKE *YOU* GUYS.

I HAVE NO *POWERS*. NO TIES TO THE AVENGERS...

...AND NO RIGHT TO BE DOING THIS.

SO, I'M DONE.

SO AM I.
BILLY--


THE AVENGERS WERE RIGHT ABOUT ME.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M DOING...
...BUT I KNOW ENOUGH NOW TO STOP DOING IT.
I'M SORRY.
APOLOGY NOT ACCEPTED.

THIS IS A WAR WE'RE FIGHTING.
AND, YES, PEOPLE GET HURT.
PEOPLE DIE.
BUT YOU DON'T STOP FIGHTING OR THE BAD GUYS WIN.
I DON'T KNOW WHO THE BAD GUYS ARE ANYMORE.

THE AVENGERS THOUGHT IT WAS WANDA.
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE AVENGERS.
ELI THOUGHT IT WAS DOOM.
BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE ME.
I'M THE BAD GUY...

"...AND I HAVE NO BUSINESS CALLING MYSELF A *YOUNG AVENGER.*"

AND *YOU'RE* OKAY WITH THIS?

I... *UNDERSTAND* IT.

SO...THE YOUNG AVENGERS ARE JUST...

...YOU AND ME?

JUST *YOU.*

I AM NOT GOING OUT THERE AND DOING THIS ALL BY MYSELF.

YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO.

YOU COULD HAVE AN ACTUAL *LIFE* FOR A CHANGE--BE A PERSON--LEARN TO SLOW DOWN.

SOUNDS LIKE HELL.

YOU NEVER KNOW. YOU MIGHT ENJOY IT.

HAVE YOU *MET* ME?

YOU GUYS READY?

I GIVE THIS WHOLE RETIREMENT THING A *WEEK.*

TWO WEEKS AT THE *MOST.*

BETWEEN YOU AND ME...?

"...I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT."

THEY'RE CALLING MANHATTAN "SPIDER-ISLAND."

IT'S AN *EPIDEMIC.*

WE *HAVE* TO GET OUT THERE.

EVEN IF WE WENT OUT THERE...

...HOW DO YOU FIGHT AN *EPIDEMIC?*

THIS IS LIVE FOOTAGE NOW FROM THE NORTH KOREAN NEWS AGENCY OF WHAT APPEAR TO BE MILITARY MANEUVERS BEING CONDUCTED...

SENTINELS...

BILLY... SOMEONE'S DECLARING *WAR* ON THE X-MEN.

BILLY, LOOK...

...THE *HUMAN TORCH*...

...HE'S *ALIVE.*

BILLY, IT'S BEEN *MONTHS*...

...ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

I'VE TRIED TO BE PATIENT AND SUPPORTIVE...

...BUT YOU NEED TO ***TALK*** TO ME--OR TO WANDA--OR TO ***SOMEONE***--RIGHT NOW.

NO, I TAKE THAT BACK. YOU NEED TO TALK TO ***ME.***

CLIK

I'M SORRY.

YOU SHOULD BE.

BECAUSE IF I'VE LEARNED NOTHING ELSE FROM ALL THIS...

...I KNOW NOW THAT LIFE IS WAY TOO SHORT FOR YOU TO BE SITTING HERE ***WASTING*** YOURS.

AND ***MINE.***

ARE YOU BREAKING UP WITH ME?

AND GIVE YOU YET ***ANOTHER*** REASON TO SIT IN THE DARK DOING NOTHING?

SORRY, KAPLAN. YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME.

TILL DEATH DO US PART.

TEDDY ALTMAN...

...DID YOU JUST ***PROPOSE*** TO ME?

DEPENDS.

ARE YOU GONNA GET OFF YOUR ASS AND ***DO*** SOMETHING?

TAP TAP TAP

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BOYS...

...BUT CAP NEEDS YOU AT THE MANSION.

BUT--

IN UNIFORM.

BUT--

NOW.

"THANK YOU FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE."

"IN THE BEGINNING, NOBODY KNEW WHAT TO MAKE OF US.

THE REASON YOU'RE HERE TONIGHT IS BECAUSE WE NEED YOUR *HELP.*

WHAT CAN WE DO?

QUITE A LOT, IT TURNS OUT.

"SEVEN SUPER-POWERED AVENGERS FANS--WHO CAME TOGETHER BECAUSE THE AVENGERS HAD FALLEN APART.

YOU FOUND THE SCARLET WITCH, WHEN WE COULDN'T.

YOU STOPPED DOCTOR DOOM, WHEN WE COULDN'T.

YOU SOMEHOW MANAGED TO DEFUSE OUR CONFLICT WITH THE X-MEN--

FOR THE MOMENT.

"NOW THERE ARE *FOUR* OF US. AND *WE'VE* FALLEN APART.

SO, WE'VE ASKED YOU HERE TO LET YOU KNOW THAT FROM THIS DAY FORWARD...

"I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US.

...WHETHER YOU'RE *YOUNG AVENGERS* OR NOT...

"BUT MAYBE *THAT'S* THE POINT.

...IN OUR EYES, YOU ARE AND ALWAYS WILL BE...

AVENGERS

"THAT THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES.

"THERE ARE NO HAPPY ENDINGS.

"BUT YOU SHOW UP ANYWAY.

"YOU DON'T GIVE UP. YOU *NEVER* GIVE UP.

"MAYBE *THAT'S* WHAT IT TAKES...

"...TO BE A *HERO.*"

THE END.

THE SCARLET WITCH'S STORY CONTINUES IN:

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS • JASON AARON • FRANK CHO

ISSUE #0 PREVIEW

ALL RIGHT THEN...

LET'S TRY NOT TO HIT ANY BUILDINGS THIS TIME.

THIS HAS TO STOP, HOPE.

WHATEVER THE HELL THIS IS, IT HAS TO STOP.

FINE, OKAY, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR STUPID ***JETPACK*** BACK.

YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

THOUGH YES, I ***WOULD*** LIKE MY JETPACK BACK.

YOU'VE BEEN SNEAKING OUT EVERY NIGHT FOR ALMOST A ***WEEK*** NOW. DID YOU ***REALLY*** THINK I WOULDN'T NOTICE?

I LET IT SLIDE AT FIRST, HOPING YOU'D COME TO YOUR SENSES.

I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING WRONG.

THEN WHY ARE YOU SNEAKING AROUND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'D ACT ***EXACTLY*** LIKE YOU'RE ACTING. ALL I DO IS FLY AROUND. THERE ARE TIMES I JUST NEED TO...TO ***CLEAR*** MY HEAD.

THAT'S ***NOT*** ALL YOU DO.

TWO MUGGERS WERE BEATEN HALF TO DEATH IN THE TENDERLOIN LAST NIGHT. THE NIGHT BEFORE THAT, A PAROLED CHILD MOLESTER IN CORONA HEIGHTS HAD HIS LEGS BROKEN. ***TELL*** ME YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. OR THAT THERE'S NOT A ***POLICE SCANNER*** STRAPPED TO YOUR BELT.

PROTECTING A WORLD THAT HATES AND FEARS US. ISN'T THAT OUR JOB?

NOT WHEN IT MEANS NEEDLESSLY PUTTING YOURSELF IN DANGER.

AND HERE I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WAS CALLED UTOPIA. FUNNY NAME FOR A ***PRISON.***

NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING ***CHILDISH.*** YOU'VE NEVER BEEN A PRISONER HERE, HOPE, YOU KNOW THAT. BUT YOU ALSO KNOW HOW ***DANGEROUS*** IT IS FOR YOU TO BE OUT THERE ON YOUR OWN. YOU'RE TOO BIG A ***TARGET.***

YOU'RE TOO IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE HERE. MOST ESPECIALLY ***ME.***

I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. I'M NOT THE DELICATE LITTLE FLOWER YOU SEEM TO THINK I AM.

NO. YOU'RE NOT.

YOU'RE THE MUTANT *MESSIAH.*

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT US BACK FROM THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION. YOU'RE THE ONE MUTANT IN ALL THE WORLD THAT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE.

BUT *WHY?*

HOPE...

NO, FOR ONCE, *TELL* ME THE WHY AND THE HOW. HOW AM I DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER MUTANT OUT HERE? ALL I'VE DONE MY WHOLE LIFE IS RUN FROM PEOPLE WHO WERE TRYING TO KILL ME. AND THEN I TURN AROUND AND SOMEONE TELLS ME HOW *AMAZING* I AM.

WHY? WHAT MAKES ME SO SPECIAL?

EVERYTHING.

THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER.

I WANT THE *TRUTH.* JUST TELL ME. PLEASE.

TELL ME ABOUT THE *PHOENIX.*

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE--

I KNOW MORE THAN YOU THINK I DO. I KNOW IT'S SOME BIG-TIME COSMIC FIREBIRD. AND I KNOW IT'S COMING FOR *ME.* JUST LIKE IT CAME YEARS AGO FOR YOUR WIFE, JEAN. I KNOW EVERYBODY GETS CRAZY SCARED WHENEVER IT'S EVEN MENTIONED. MOST ESPECIALLY *YOU.*

SO...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT *GETS* HERE?

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

HOPE, WAIT...

IF YOU WON'T TELL ME, I'LL FIND MY *OWN* ANSWERS.

ALL UNITS, 10-30 IN PROGRESS AT THE ISOTOPE BANK AND TRUST, 326 FELL STREET...

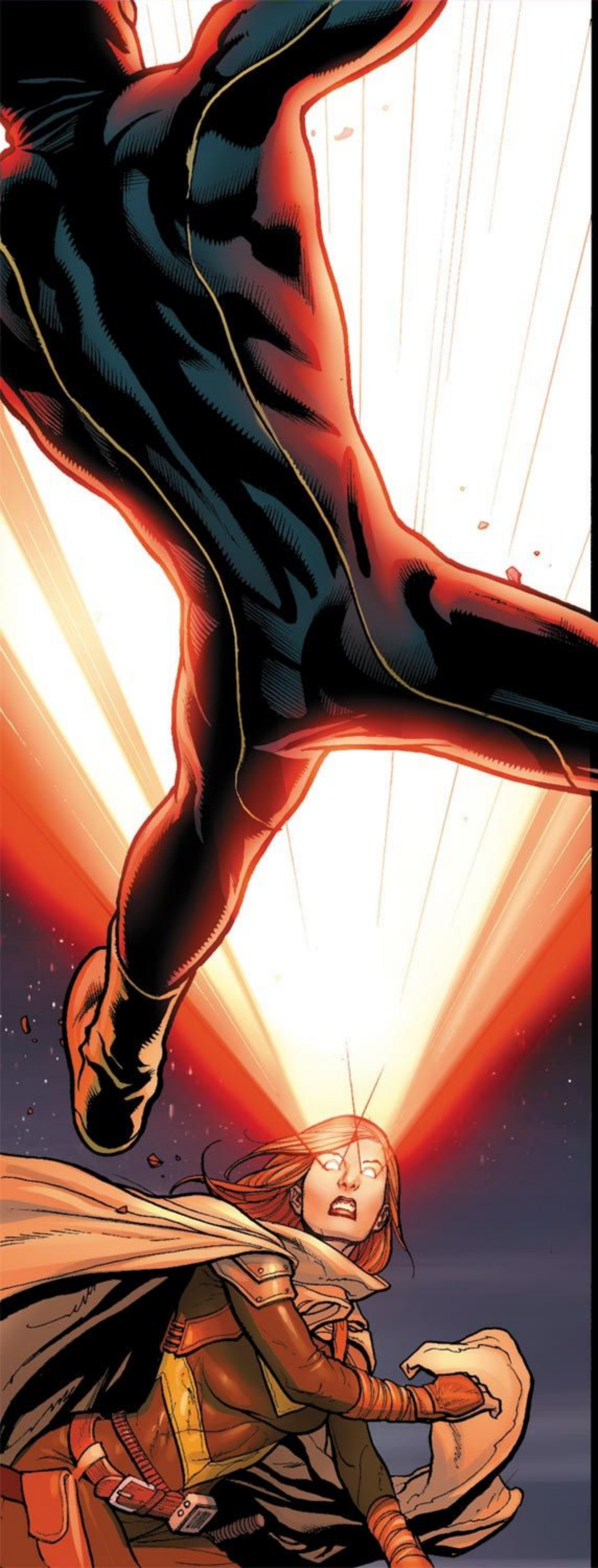
DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT TRYING TO STOP ME.

HOPE, JUST LISTEN, PLEASE...

NO.

YOU LISTEN.



TO BE CONTINUED IN
AVENGERS VS. X-MEN #0
ON SALE MARCH 2012